

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement drawing sheets makes changes to Figs. 1a, 1b, 2a, 2b, 3a, 3b and 11-13 and replaces the original sheets with Fig. 1a, 1b, 2a, 2b, 3a, 3b and 11-13.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 5-12 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 5 and 10 are amended, claim 4 is canceled, and claims 11 and 12 are added. Figs. 1a, 1b, 2a, 2b, 3a, 3b and 11-13 are amended. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in light of the foregoing claim amendments and the following remarks.

Applicant thanks Examiner Ham for the courtesy extended to Applicant's representative, Mr. Luo, during the June 21, 2005 personal interview. The substance of the personal interview is incorporated in the following remarks.

The Office Action objects to the drawings. Figs. 1a, 1b, 2a, 2b, 3a, 3b and 11-13 are amended, as the Examiner requested. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 5 and 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 4,246,555 to Williams. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites resonators that each have a plurality of portions, the plurality of portions each including a rectilinear side. (See the straight-line sides of each of the resonators 61, 62 and 63 in Fig. 6 of the specification.) Claim 1 recites that the rectilinear sides are in a cross section parallel to an H-plane. (See the hatch patterns in Figs. 5 and 6, and related description of an H-plane in the specification at, for example, page 13, lines 1-9.) As discussed during the personal interview, claim 1 recites that the resonators are arranged so that a rectilinear side of one resonator is capable of being shared with another resonator, the shared rectilinear sides form boundaries between resonators for electric and/or magnetic coupling between the resonators, and the boundaries between the resonators are in the general shape of the letter Y. Method claim 10 recites similar features.

The Office Action asserts that Williams discloses all elements recited in claims 1 and 10. However, Williams does not disclose boundaries between resonators that are in the general shape of the letter Y, as recited in claims 1 and 10.

Williams discloses a filter having cavities 1, 2 and 3. See Fig. 2a and col. 2, lines 49-68. The boundaries between cavities 1, 2 and 3 are in a shape of the letter T. See Fig. 2a. Williams does not disclose or suggest boundaries between resonators that are in the general shape of the letter Y. Therefore, Williams does not disclose each and every element recited in claims 1 and 10.

For at least the above reasons, Williams does not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claims 1 and 10, and claims 2, 5, 8 and 9 depending therefrom. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 5 and 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Williams in view of JP 2002-026611 to Maruhashi et al.; and rejects claims 3, 4 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Williams in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,936,490 to Hershtig or U.S. Patent No. 4,216,448 to Kasuga et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Maruhashi discloses a waveguide filter having through holes. See Fig. 1. Maruhashi does not disclose or suggest resonators having rectilinear sides to be shared with other resonators, much less boundaries between resonators that are in the general shape of the letter Y. Therefore, Maruhashi does not supply the subject matter lacking in Williams.

Hershtig discloses a filter having three cavities C1, C2 and C3 coupled in a triplet configuration. See Fig. 1 and col. 2, lines 55-65. The cavities C1, C2 and C3 are cylindrical. See Fig. 1. Thus, the cavities C1, C2 and C3 do not have boundaries between C1, C2 and C3 that are formed of shared rectilinear sides for electric and/or magnetic coupling between the cavities. Therefore, Hershtig does not disclose or suggest resonators having rectilinear sides

to be shared with other resonators, much less boundaries between resonators that are in the general shape of the letter Y. Therefore, Hershtig does not supply the subject matter lacking in Williams.

Similar to Hershtig, Kasuga discloses a filter having resonator rods 21, 22 and 24 in a triplet configuration. See Fig. 1a and col. 4, lines 5-10. The resonator rods are cylindrical. Thus, as discussed during the interview, the resonators do not have boundaries therebetween that are formed of shared rectilinear sides for electric and/or magnetic coupling between the resonators. Therefore, Kasuga does not disclose or suggest resonators having rectilinear sides to be shared with other resonators, much less boundaries between resonators that are in the general shape of the letter Y. Therefore, Kasuga does not supply the subject matter lacking in Williams.

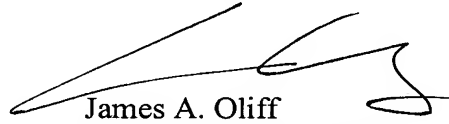
For any or all of the above reasons, Williams, Maruhashi, Hershtig and Kasuga do not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claims 1 and 10, and claims 3, 4, 6 and 7 depending therefrom. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 3, 4, 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

New claims 11 and 12 are patentable at least in view of the patentability of claim 1, from which they depend, as well as for additional features they recite. For example, Williams, Maruhashi, Hershtig and Kasuga do not disclose or suggest a resonator having a first and second rectilinear sides to be fully and exclusively shared by a respective other resonator.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-12 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Gang Luo
Registration No. 50,559

JAO:GXL/hs

Attachment:
Replacement sheets

Date: June 29, 2005

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
--